



AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 10, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 22 and ending on line 29 with the following amended paragraph:

In other embodiments, the present invention contemplates biologically active derivatives and analogues of said SE- or SE motif-containing peptides. Such analogues vary from said peptides by virtue of one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions or additions. In some embodiments, said analogue or derivative is based on the sequence QHXXA [Gln His Xaa Xaa Ala] [~~SEQ ID NO: 3~~] [SEQ ID NO:4] . In other embodiments, synthetic peptides that are analogues or derivatives of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2 and 3 are contemplated. In other embodiments, the invention contemplates genetically engineered SE-containing or SE motif-containing proteins. In one embodiment, said genetically engineered protein is the hepatitis B core protein.

On page 16, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 13 and ending on line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 9, respectively, (SEQ ID NOS:1, 2, 11, 14, 12, 15, and 16) is a bar graph which depicts the results of experiments carried out to determine the SE motif.

On page 16, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 24 and ending on line 27 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 11 shows the inhibition of cAMP signaling by SE genetically inserted into foreign proteins. Figure 11A (SEQ ID NOS: 17 and 18) shows the amino acid sequence of the recombinant HBc proteins containing residues 65-79 of DR β *0401 and DR β *0402. Figure 11B is a bar graph which shows DNA repair in M1 cells preincubated overnight with HBc*0401 or HBc*0404.